

C1
increasing degree of separation and a decreasing storage capacity for particles to be filtered out of said fluid, and wherein said inflow layer is comprised of synthetic fibers of a melt-blown nonwoven web with a weight per unit area of approximately 15 to 150 g/m², and said discharge layer is comprised of a predominantly cellulose-containing compressed filter paper having a weight per unit area of about 50 to 200 g/m².

C2
16. (Amended) A filter element according to claim 15, wherein an intermediate filter medium layer located between the inflow-side filter medium and the outflow-side filter medium comprises a compressed melt-blown nonwoven web having a weight per unit area of 15 to 150 g/m².

C3
21. (Amended) A filter element according to claim 13, wherein at least one of the cellulose-containing filter layers includes up to but not including 50% of synthetic fibers.

C4
35. (Amended) A filter element comprising a plurality of filter medium layers joined together such that a fluid to be filtered flows successively through the layers in a flow direction commencing with an inflow layer and ending with a discharge layer, wherein successive layers in said flow direction exhibit an increasing degree of separation and a decreasing storage capacity for particles to be filtered out of said fluid, and wherein said inflow layer is comprised of synthetic fibers of a melt-blown nonwoven web with a weight per unit area of approximately 15 to 150 g/m² or of a predominantly cellulose-containing filter paper, with a

CH weight per unit area of 50 to 200 g/m², and said discharge layer is comprised of a predominantly cellulose-containing compressed filter paper having a weight per unit area of about 50 to 200 g/m².
